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McManus bill to expand options for marriage counseling sent to governor

LANSING – The Senate on Thursday approved legislation that would make it easier for retired clergy to provide marital and premarital counseling, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

“Faith-based institutions play an important role in marriage preparation and counseling,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “This will help them continue providing spiritual guidance to Michigan’s families.”

Senate Bill 959 would allow retired clergy and other religious practitioners with adequate experience to continue providing marital or premarital counseling without applying for a counseling license from the state.

It also would clarify the law to allow a church to have a full-time "marriage or family life" pastor/counselor.

The bill is part of a bipartisan legislative package that promotes strong marriages, strong families and a strong Michigan.

The bill now goes to the governor for consideration.

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